GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4601
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
REGIONAL IMBALANCE
PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to have a total study of the under- development and economical imbalance of the regions of respective States after the completion of Ninth Plan Period;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to accommodate enough plan support to balance those under-developed regions in the real sense of economic re-juvenation to fight out imbalances in the Tenth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details of special attention given by the Government to add the six under-developed districts of North Bengal within the State of West Bengal during the Tenth Plan Period?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES & PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) No, Sir

(b) & (c): Planning and development of an area or region within a state and allocation of funds for the purpose are primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments, Hence, Planning Commission has not identified any area as backward or underdeveloped per se. However, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward areas through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central Assistance.

As far as the six under developed districts of North Bengal with in the state of West Bengal are concerned, the Planning Commission has approved a research study on `Comparative backwardness of North Bengal Region` to be conducted by Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR), New Delhi.